



# Esther Ezra Nehemiah

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King of Persia	Reign (Approx.)	Key Events in Ezra-Nehemiah	Biblical References
Cyrus II ("the great")	559-530 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conquers Babylon(539 BC).</li> <li>- Issues decree allowing Jews to return and rebuild the temple.</li> </ul>	Ezra 1:1-4
Cambyses II	530-522 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reign between Cyrus and Darius.</li> <li>- Likely when rebuilding slowed due to opposition.</li> </ul>	No direct mention.
Darius I ("the Great")	522-486 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rebuilding of the temple resumes and prophetic encouragement from Haggai and Zechariah.</li> <li>- Temple completed in 516 BC.</li> </ul>	Ezra 4:24-6:15
Xerxes I (Ahasuerus)	486-465 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opposition to Jewish rebuilding mentioned briefly.</li> <li>- Possibly background to Esther's story.</li> </ul>	Ezra 4:6 Book of Esther
Artaxerxes I	465-424 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opposition letters during his early reign (Ezra 4:7-23).</li> <li>- Later, he supports Ezra's mission to teach the Law (458 BC)</li> </ul>	Ezra 7:1-28

# Tools of the Saints

- I. Trusting in who God is and what He promises.
- II. Joy in the Lord.
- III. Prayer before action.
- IV. Conviction of sin & confidence in God's redemption.
- V. Enduring obedience.

# Tools of the Enemy

- I. Fear and discouragement.
- II. Syncretism of God and the world.
- III. Prosperity.

## Bible Books:

### Ezra 1-6

### Esther

### Ezra 7-10

### Nehemiah

Fall of Jerusalem

Decree of Cyrus

Temple Completed

Esther became queen; Foiled Haman's plot to kill Jews

Nehemiah to Jerusalem; walls rebuilt

585

540 535

515

480

460

445

430

Zerubbabel Led 50,000 to Jerusalem; altar rebuilt; temple foundation laid

Ezra led second group to Jerusalem; religious reforms

Nehemiah left Jerusalem; later returned

**Haggai**  
**Zechariah**

## Prophets:

### Malachi

# Esther

- I. Chapters 1-3: God sets up His plan of salvation.
- II. Chapters 4-7: God's people act and are aided by Him.
- III. Chapters 8-10 : God finishes His plan of salvation.

# Ezra

- I. Chapters 1-7: Zerubbabel leads the people back to Israel and works on the temple.
- II. Chapters 8-10: Ezra calls the people back from lawlessness.

# Nehemiah

- I. Chapters 1-2: prayer and preparation for God's mission.
- II. Chapters 3-7:72: building God's kingdom in an opposing world.
- III. Chapters 7:73-12: reconciliation and praise.
- IV. Chapter 13: Nehemiah calls the people back from lawlessness.